

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT North Korean Agricultural Programs

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1. In early 1950, the North Korean government established in Pyongyang a Farmers' Market, which was widely publicized as an example of government assistance to the small farmer. The market, it was announced, would barter, at good rates, various daily necessities for rice and other grain from the farmers. In practice, however, the market paid lower than the current rates for rice and would pay the farmers in neither cash nor commodities, but only in scrip which was applicable only for purchases in the same market. Moreover, the market sold most items at higher rates than other stores and did not carry Korean cotton cloth and kerosene, the two items most needed by farming families.

2. By mid-1950, farmers in the Pyongyang area had become thoroughly disillusioned with the North Korean government's announcements concerning the market and agricultural policy in general. An attitude of non-cooperation with the government was consequently appearing among all but the most enthusiastic Communists, particularly in the Pyongyang area.

3. The North Korean government in early 1950 announced an agricultural program of planned production by unit acreage for each farm household in the country, under the title "People's Economy Agricultural Production Schedule". According to this plan, each household was to set aside from 850 to 2,000 pyong\* of land, depending upon the size of the farm, for wheat production, with an average for the entire country of approximately 1,000 pyong per farm. This program was to be completed by the end of 1950.

4. Although the production of wheat in North Korea had been a negligible part of total crops in previous years, the authorities expected a large wheat crop in 1951 because of the acreage to be devoted to that grain. North Korean farmers believed in early 1951 that the program would materially improve the general food situation during the year in spite of damage caused by the war.

\* Comment: A pyong is 36 square feet.

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\* Comment: The degree of compliance with the program and its success were not reported.

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